

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/704,171

Examiner

Blaine Basom

Applicant(s)

AAMODT ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicants' Amendment After Final, received 8/1/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 53-72.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' Attorney, Chen Liang, on September 13, 2006. The application is amended as follows:

1. Please enter the amendments received on 8/1/2006.
2. In claim 63, line 3, please add the phrase --a plurality of-- after the phrase, "receiving a project having".
3. Please replace claim 64 with the following:

64. (Currently Amended) A project information management system, the system comprising:
a user interface that receives a project having a plurality of tasks, each task having a cost field;
memory storage that for each task, stores a display option indicating whether to display text data or graphical indicators for the cost field, and that for each task with a display option indicating to display graphical indicators, stores an under budget threshold, an under budget graphical indicator, an over budget threshold, and an over budget graphical indicator for the cost field of the task, wherein the received thresholds and indicators can be different for each task;
a graphical indicator engine that processes the cost field of a task, when processing the cost field for a task,

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determines whether the display option indicates displaying graphical indicators or text data for the cost field;
when the display option indicates to display text data, displays text data for the cost field; and
when the display option indicates to display graphical indicators,
retrieves the stored under budget and over budget thresholds;
compares project cost information contained in the cost field with the under budget threshold;
when the project cost information is less than the under budget threshold,
displays the under budget graphical indicator;
compares the project cost information contained in the cost field with the over budget threshold; and
when the project cost information is greater than the over budget threshold, displays the over budget graphical indicator.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 62 is allowed for the reasons presented in the final Office Action mailed on 6/1/2006.

Claim 63 and 64 are allowed for substantially the same reasons in which claim 62 is allowed. That is, the prior art (for example, U.S. Patent No. 6,349,315, to Sonoyama et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,918,238 to Hayashi) teaches receiving and storing various thresholds and associated graphical indicators, such that data within a document that exists in a pre-determined relationship with the threshold (e.g. is greater than, is less than, or is equal to the threshold) is indicated by the graphical indicators (i.e. is colored according to the graphical indicators).

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Additionally, the prior art (for example, U.S. Patent No. 6,323,885 to Wiese) teaches displaying only the graphical indicator, and not the data, for data that exists in the pre-determined relationship with the thresholds. Moreover, the prior art (U.S. Patent No. 5,704,028 to Schanel et al.) teaches that such data, having corresponding graphical indicators, may include project data having tasks and subtasks, each task and subtask having a cost field. Accordingly, the prior art is considered to teach, to one of ordinary skill in the art: providing a project having a plurality of tasks, each task having a cost field with project cost information; for each task and subtask, receiving from a user and storing a display option indicating whether to display text data or graphical indicators for the cost field; receiving from the user and storing thresholds (e.g. an under budget threshold, an over budget threshold) and corresponding graphical indicators for the cost fields; and processing the cost information in each of the cost fields, such that data within the field that exists in a pre-determined relationship with the corresponding thresholds (e.g. is greater than, is less than, or is equal to the threshold) is indicated by the graphical indicators (i.e. is colored according to the graphical indicators, or replaced with the indicator) if the display option indicates displaying graphical indicators. The prior art, however, does not explicitly disclose that the received thresholds and graphical indicators can be different for each of the plurality of tasks, as is recited in claims 63 and 64.

As claims 53-61 depend on claim 63, and include all of the limitations of claim 63, claims 53-61 are allowed for the reasons in which claim 63 is allowed. Similarly, as claims 65-72 depend on claim 64, and include all of the limitations of claim 64, claims 65-72 are allowed for the reasons in which claim 64 is allowed.

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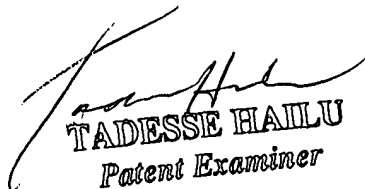
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

bth
9/30/2006


TADESSE HAILU
Patent Examiner